

Fountaingrove II Gazette

A Publication of the Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association

Volume III, Issue 2

Spring 2006

OSMA Board Members

- Gary Specker, President
- Kim Nielsen-Glynn, Vice President
- Keith Kerr, CFO
- Sy Rothbard, Secretary
- Jeff Schween

OSMA Board Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at Focus Real Estate & Investments, Inc., 3936 Mayette Ave. Call 544-9443 to confirm the time and date.

The Fountaingrove II Gazette is a continuation of previous newsletters of the Association. Previous newsletters can be found at www.fountaingrove2.org

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Woodstock is Coming to Our Park

By Kim Nielsen-Glynn, OSMA Board Member and Park Committee Chairperson

Be on the lookout! Snoopy's best friend, the lovable little bird, Woodstock, will be perched permanently at Rincon Ridge Park very soon. And what a wonderful, whimsical addition he will be!

As part of Santa Rosa's "Summer of Woodstock," over 70 statues will be positioned throughout the city as a tribute to creator Charles Schulz and as a fund-raiser. Last year, 55 Charlie Brown statues enlivened the city streets and brought joy to residents and visitors alike. This year the excitement has grown, and we're counting down the days until the artists have the opportunity to make their marks on Woodstock in Mid-May.

Fortunately for us, a talented Fountaingrove II neighbor, Wade Eakle, came forward and offered to be the artist for the Rincon Ridge Park statue. Interestingly, Wade actually won a car-

toon award from Charles Schulz when he was a high school student. When we heard that, we knew this match was meant to be!

Wade plans on styling Woodstock as a bald eagle (see picture page 3), an all-American bird for sure! How exciting it will be to have Woodstock "nesting" in our park for many years to come!

Keep your eyes peeled toward the end of May, as that is Woodstock's target "landing" time. All the Woodstocks will be on display throughout town until September 24th, when some of the five-foot statues will be auctioned off.

Donations of any size are still welcomed for our Woodstock. The total cost to have Woodstock live in the park permanently is about \$6,500. We've raised about \$3,000 to date.

Want to Donate?

Please send your check to:
 OSMA Woodstock Fund
 c/o Focus Real Estate
 3936 Mayette Ave.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405
 Questions:
 glynn@sonic.net
 544-7871

Survey is Sent to All Fountaingrove II Homeowners

A survey is being mailed to all Fountaingrove II residents, asking for opinions on two subjects: 1) whether to remove or maintain the development entrance monuments throughout the area, and 2) whether to adopt and care for the median and planting strips along Fountaingrove Parkway.

1) The maintenance of the entrance monuments is an expense out of the OSMA budget. This expense can occur whether due to normal wear and tear or because of vandalism. Costs vary for repairs. Currently the Fox Ridge monument at lower Rincon Ridge is being re-tiled at a cost of about \$2,000.

2) While it is the City's responsibility to main-

tain the medians and the parking strips along the Parkway, few resources are available to do this on a regular basis. Discussions within our community have been going on for some time about the OSMA "adopting" these spaces at a cost of about \$20,000/yr. Our neighbors to the west in Fountaingrove Ranch have adopted their medians and parking strips on the Parkway west of Parker Hill Rd.

The Board will make a decision on these issues taking into account the results of this survey, so make your opinion known by **May 15th!** A link to the survey form can be found at www.fountaingrove2.org.

Landscape and Firebreak Maintenance Contracts Approved

At its March 2006 meeting, the OSMA Board awarded the landscape maintenance and the fire break maintenance contracts for the upcoming year. The Board made its decision based on the recommendations of the Request for Proposal (RFP) Committee, headed by resident Dennis Searles.

The landscape maintenance one-year contract was awarded to Pacific Landscape in the amount of \$5,715 per month. Dennis stated that Pacific will be on-site 2,281 hours per year which is 700 more hours than the previous contractor, Cagwin and Dorward (who was less expensive but had a higher hourly rate).

The firebreak maintenance one-year contract was awarded to Marizco in the amount of \$67,800. Firebreak maintenance work will be accomplished in 3 phases: 1) Weed abatement (cutting of weeds & grasses) completed by no later than 5/31; 2) re-growth treatment in one of the four Fountaingrove II firebreak areas (removal of dead trees, branches, fallen trees, etc.) completed by 6/30; 3) 2nd pass for weed abatement completed by 8/15. Weed abatement will include all of the project areas previously treated for fuel reduction to mitigate the potential for a disastrous wildfire.

Those participating on the RFP Committee with Dennis Searles were Kim Nielsen-Glynn, Felis Domingues, Bill Mulert, and Gene Traverso. The Committee met over a period of 2 1/2 months, refining the RFP documents, defining the requirements and selection criteria, interviewing vendors and finalizing recommendations.

The RFP Committee initially approached 11 vendors, met with 7 and conducted tours with 5 to view the Open

(Continued on page 3)

Trash Pickup Service is Decided

At the March '06 Board meeting the Board voted to begin service for trash pickup with Ramfire Building Maintenance for \$560/mo. Service will include the Open Space parcels along the Parkway and interior roads. Results will be evaluated in several months.

Thanks to our Trash Pickup Volunteers

Once again, we sincerely thank the volunteers who are picking up trash in our Open Spaces. **Richard and Marla Bretches** have been doing this for about 2 1/2 yrs! If you know the names of others that we can thank, please e-mail their names to editor@fountaingrove2.org

Fire Safety Committee is Disbanded; City to Enforce Weed Abatement Program

At the March 2006 OSMA Board meeting, the Board voted to disband the Fire Safety Committee. This committee was chaired by Bill Andrews, Fountaingrove II resident and former OSMA Board member.

The Committee's purpose was to study the risks of a disastrous wildfire, to learn how best to mitigate the risk, to develop an action plan and to oversee the implementation of the plan. All of these objectives were met by the end of 2005 with the completion of fuel reduction projects in Open Space parcels that increased treated areas from the former 30' to the present 100' from property lines.

Bill Andrews tirelessly worked hundreds of volunteer hours to accomplish these objectives. The community thanks him for his hard work, vision and commitment.

Residents must cut weeds on their own property. The City will levy fines of a minimum \$210 this year if property is found in violation after May 15th (see the City Web site—Fire Dept., Weed Abatement for more information). We had a wet winter and spring which produced lots of vegetation, so this could be a very dangerous year for wildfires. Learn more on our Web site at www.fountaingrove2.org

Scotch Broom is a Problem in Fountaingrove II

It's pretty, isn't it? By now we've all noticed the beautiful bushes with bright yellow flowers which grow on our hill-sides and often pop up in our yards. It flourishes and spreads rapidly with new plants seeming to spring up overnight!

But this plant is not a native species, and it is one of the most damaging and invasive plants in our area, crowding out the natives and increasing fire risk. It is called Scotch Broom, and is the focus of eradication programs from California up the coast to Washington and into British Columbia. Many Web sites have pages devoted to eradication techniques and programs. We also have a Web page—the link to it is posted on our Home page under "News on the Web Site". Go to www.fountaingrove2.org and take a look.



proposals to undertake a broom control program this spring in our Open Spaces. Current areas of heaviest infestation are the area below Daybreak along the Parkway, and the slopes along the Parkway near The Summit*. There are also spot problems in many other locations.

Residents are URGED to survey their property and remove this damaging plant. There are two techniques for removal:

- 1) Pull it out by the roots, or use a Weed Wrench™ to twist it out, and 2) carefully apply Roundup® to plants (large, mature broom should be cut back before applying Roundup to avoid damage to surrounding plants).

We are going to have to be on guard against this plant for a long time because the seeds can take hold over an indefinite period of time. Seize the opportunity now to remove broom while the soil is wet and it pulls more easily!

*Note: The open space at the Summit has not yet been turned over to the OSMA. The developer will be asked to remove broom as part of the turnover process.

The OSMA Board is currently seeking advice and vendor

Landscape & Firebreak Maintenance Contracts (continued)

Space areas of Fountaingrove II which require service. The Committee then analyzed the responses to select 4 candidates for the Board's decision, two for each contract.

Key decision criteria included OSMA prior experience with the vendor, references, interviews (assessment of management and communication skills), completeness of the bid, price, licensing and insurance compliance, and vendor experience with other HOA's or commercial clients.

The community and Board thank Dennis Searles and all of the members of the RFP Committee for their hard work in completing the new maintenance contracts.

Fountaingrove II Open Space Data

Firebreak maint. contract: 4 main areas: West Ridge (12.4 acres); East Ridge (14.6 acres); Parker Hill/

Crown Hill (17.1 acres); Interior Islands (Vistara, Parker Hill and a portion of West Ridge) (10.9 acres). These 4 areas are divided into 15 management sub-areas. Approximately 55 acres total.

Landscape maint. contract: 14 irrigated areas and 5 natural areas. Approximately 20 acres total.

FGII Open Space (the above plus wild land areas): Approx. 195 acres total (The Summit is not yet included.)

Spring Planting Program

The spring planting program is planned and the contract has been approved. The contractor, Atlas, will be planting a large strip along the south side of the Parkway from Rocky Point to the edge of The Summit.

The planting will include 520 - 5 gallon plants, drip irrigation, mulch, removal

Woodstock in Rincon Ridge Park



Woodstock will pose as a bald eagle in our park

of weeds and grasses, spraying, etc., for a total of \$67,600.

It is hoped that some new plants can be added to the plant list because native plants are very hard to get this year and have increased in price. Suggestions are being sought from the California Native Plant Society.

May Board Meeting to be in the Evening

The May Board meeting will be held in the evening to allow for increased community participation.

The meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the usual location:

Focus Real Estate and Investments
3936 Mayette Ave. (near Whole Foods)

Call Focus for more information if needed (544-9443). Agendas for all Board meetings are posted on the Web site at www.fountaingrove2.org as soon as they are available.

Fire Station Relocation is Delayed

The relocation of Fire Station #5 to the site on Newgate Court, currently located on Parker Hill Road, has been delayed by an estimated one year.

Gary Specker, OSMA Board President, has been in touch with Fire Chief Bruce Varner and received the updated time-frame.

Chief Varner explained that the relocation must coincide with the development of a new fire station near the intersection of Mendocino Ave. and Steele Lane, in order not to leave a large area of the City uncovered.

"Unfortunately, we ran into unforeseen difficulties obtaining property in the Mendocino/Steele area which caused the delay", explained Varner. He continued, "We remain committed to all elements of the development of the Fountaingrove fire station, including closely involving both of the associations (Fountaingrove II and Fountaingrove Ranch) and residents. At this point I would estimate that we are 3-6 months away from putting together the public hearing process."

The Board will keep Fountaingrove II residents informed about developments as they become known.

Stay Informed - Send in Your E-mail Address for News

Our Web site is now in its fourth year, www.fountaingrove2.org. It's a fast way to get current news. Be sure your name is on our Web update list. Get timely and important Web update notification. Your name and e-mail address will not be shared with anyone else, and it will be hidden in group e-mails.



Simply send an e-mail with your name to: editor@fountaingrove2.org. State that you want to be on the update list

Letters to the Editor & Newsletter Contributions

If you would like to comment or contribute to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to:

editor@fountaingrove2.org

Letters to the Editor and contributions will be published as space permits. Next issue: Summer 2006. Deadline: June 15, 2006

Previous Issues of Newsletters

Welcome to all the new residents of our community!! Because we continue to have many new residents as homes are completed, we thought you might want to know that previous issues of newsletters can be found on our Web site. Here is the URL:

<http://www.fountaingrove2.org/Newsletters/newsletters.html>

These newsletters contain information which may be helpful as you orient to our community.

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Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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FOUNTAINGROVE II
Open Space Maintenance Association

The Fountaingrove II Gazette

The Fountaingrove II Gazette is published quarterly by the Fountaingrove II Open Space Maintenance Association. Any submission information/requests should be directed to the OSMA Board through its property management association:

Focus Real Estate and Investments, Inc.
3936 Mayette Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Phone: 707-544-9443
Fax: 707-544-5418
E-mail: focusre@sonic.net

Sue Specker, Newsletter Editor
editor@fountaingrove2.org

Fountaingrove II is a residential community in the hills of northeastern Santa Rosa, CA, in the heart of the Wine Country in Sonoma County. When construction is completed there will be nearly 600 homes within the community.

The Open Space Maintenance Association (OSMA) is responsible for managing the Open Space within the defined boundaries of the community. All homeowners share the ownership and maintenance of this Open Space. The Association strives to preserve the natural beauty of the wooded spaces while promoting safety to homeowners and improvements to the landscaped areas along the streets and Parkway.

Keeping our open spaces beautiful

We're on the Web:

www.fountaingrove2.org